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"I'm glad they have things like this out here," Marine Cpl. Kenneth Black Jr. said.

Black, an Amory custodian and supply clerk for the Headquarters Company, CJTF-HOA said that he is more confident in his leadership abilities now.

Black who has been a corporal for 10 months and has spent the past 6 months in the Horn of Africa is glad he completed the course now instead of putting it off any longer. "The things that I learned and the things that I was taught will help me be a better leader to my troops. Now when I go back to the states I can pass on that information to them and help them get promoted," Black said. Black said he is particularly eager to pass on the drill and sword manual he learned that he otherwise wouldn't practice or learn stateside.

The school and the 80-hour required curriculum that was established by the Marine Corps University impressed the class honor graduate. "They were by far the most difficult courses I've taken," said Kuehn. "I was impressed with the knowledge of the instructors. They were very professional and very eager to help you out."

"I learned that there are better ways to lead people. I learned what it means to lead by example," said Kuehn, a Troy, N.Y. native.

"I think they brought a new flavor to the course," Servis said. "They were very mature and I know they are the

cream of the crop because they have to be screened before they can become a member of the Old Guard. They were professional and willing to learn and had no problem taking on the challenge of learning what the Marine Corps instructors were teaching them."

The course counts for both the Marine's residents' course and the Army's Primary Leadership Development Course.

According to Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Closterman, MARCENT-Djibouti sergeant major, he strongly supports the development of noncommissioned officers. "It's important to conduct the course here in this environment when we have lulls in activities and with little to do outside apart from going to the gym or the pool. This course makes them better time managers and better leaders when they go back to work. Therefore, I think they're more focused on what there doing out here."

Closterman explained that six months is too much time to go by without developing leadership in this important stage of an NCO's time in the service.

"We can tap into the senior leadership we have here that we would not have some place else," said Closterman. "We have diversity that we can pull from to include the ground side, air side, and every (military specialty) you can think of here, which makes for a well-rounded NCO."

"I hope the course continues on," said Servis who redeploys soon to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where she is a legal chief for the 2d Marine Expeditionary Force.



photo by Sgt. Melinda D. Munoz

Castellaw visits camp

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — Maj. Gen. John G. Castellaw, commander of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, based out of Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C., visits with Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, commander, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, here May 27. Meetings between Maj. Gen. Castellaw and Brig. Gen. Helland focused on the support Castellaw's Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 MCAS New River, N.C., equipped with CH-53E Super Stallion, are providing to support CJTF-HOA and addressed the potential fielding of the Avenger missile system, a Low Altitude Air Defense asset that will further enhance capabilities within the task force.



Troops learn lifesaving skills

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — Marine Cpl. Michael D. Confer, a radio technician from State College, Pa., checks for a pulse after applying a splint to the arm of Marine Cpl. Sonephet Souvanna, a Weston, Mass., radio operator, during the practical application portion of the Combat Lifesavers' Course here June 2. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nadder Y. Enani, a Fleet Marine Force corpsman and the course instructor, taught the week-long course to soldiers and Marines stationed here so they would be better prepared when responding to emergency situations. Enani, a Mount Dora, Fla., native taught the service members basic first aid they could apply in combat situations, how to better assess the injured and how to care for them until a corpsman arrived. (Official U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. G. Lane Miley)